

January 11, 2005

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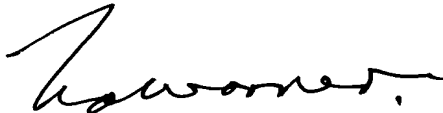
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Dear Sir

**Re: Small-entity Status**

I am a retired University academic formerly with the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom without research funding and support. Accordingly, the initial preparation and the background research were all conducted in my private residence. Therefore, I believe I should qualify for small entity status.

Yours sincerely



Noel A Warner  
Emeritus Professor